इन्दौर ने जमा खाताधारी, परिचय देने वाले आदि से राशि की वसूली के लिए एक दीवानी मुकदमा दायर किया है।

Election Commission recommendation on electroral reforms

3481. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 104 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th October, 1982 and state:

(a) the outlines of each of the proposals for electoral reforms as recommended by the Election Commission under the following five lists requiring amendments/ changes in the (i) Constitution; (ii) Representationn of People Act, 1950; (iii) Representation of People Act, 1951; (iv) Other Acts; and (v) Executive Instructions;

(b) when, at what level and in what manner each one of the above 91 proposals have been disposed of after the repeatedly promised consultations with political parties on them and which ones still continue to be under consideration even after a lapse of six years; and

(c) which of the accepted ones will be implemented before the next Lok Sabha polls?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) The list of the proposals for electoral reforms recommended by the Election Commission in 1982 and categorised under the headings indicated in para (a) of the Question, are contained in the statements laid on the Table of the Sabha in reply to Unstarred Question No. 104 on 4-10-1982.

(b) and (c) Before these 91 proposals could be fully considered and a final decision taken, the General Elections of 1984 intervened. However, Government implemented the following important proposals:—

(i) Ban on Defections—The Constitution (Fifty-second Amendment) Act, 1985 was enacted.

(ii) Permitting Companies to make donations to political parties under certain conditions—The Companies Amendment Act, 1985 was enacted.

(iii) Prevention of miuse of religious premises for political purposes: The Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988 was enacted.

(iv) Reduction in voting age—The Constitution (Sixty-second Amendment) Bill was passed by both the Houses in December, 1988.

(v) Various other important proposals, like prevention of booth capturing, definition of political parties and provision for their registration, making the provisions relating to disqualification stiffer, etc., are contained in the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988.

2. All the sections of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988, excepting sections 3, 6, 7 and 8, have been brought into force from 15th March, 1989; sections 7 and 8 shall come into force from 1st April, 1989.

3. The process of electoral reforms is a continuous one. It cannot be completed in one go. For the present save for certain consequential amendments to the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950; pursuance to the reduction in voting age and the enrolment of new voters in the age group of 18 to 21, no other reforms are under consideration.

Recommendation of Election Commission

3482. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:
SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission had recommended (as part of its pro-

posals for electoral reforms) the same privileges and safeguards in the matter of its Secretariat and staff, as are provided in the Constitution, to the Parliament etc., in order to ensure its complete insulation against the Executive and strengthening of the Commission's Constitutional status;

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto; and

(c) whether the promotion, punishment and transfer etc., of the staff of the Commission are at present under the Ministry of Law and the final decision does not lie with the Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Such a proposal has been made by the Election Commission as a part of several other proposals for electoral reforms in 1982. The Election Commission has not reiterated this proposal subsequently.

In regard to all administrative and service matters in respect of persons occupying posts upto and inclusive of Group 'B' gazetted level, the final authority vests only in the Election Commission. In respect of persons in Group 'A' posts, President being the Appointing Authority, Ministry of Law and Justice remains in the picture. However, in actual practice, and invariably, the recommendations made by the Election Commission are processed for acceptance. Incidentally, excepting those cases for which provision exists in the recruitment rules for appointments to be made on transfer, the staff of the Election Commission are not transferred outside the Commission.

Use of Electronic voting machines

3483. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the use of electronic voting machines is desirable in elections; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government have placed their inventory of the machines to their manufacturers; if so, for how many machines and what is their delivery schedule as also the estimated cost;

(c) whether Government would ensure the use of the voting machines in the ensuing Lok Sabha elections and take all the effective steps well in time; and

(d) how many Lok Sabha constituencies are estimated to be covered by these voting machines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir. A statement summarising the advantages in the use of the Electronic voting machines in elections is attached. (*See* below).

(b) Orders have not yet been placed.

(c) and (d) Suitable provisions have already been made in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, to make it legally permissible for the electronic voting machines to be used in the voting process. The objective is to introduce the machines in the first phase in constituencies identified by the Election Commission as sensitive.

Statement

Advantages of the Electronic voting machines

1. Use of ballot papers in lakhs for every constituency will be dispensed with. This will result in tremendous saving of paper and in cost of printing.

2. Use of ballot boxes is completely eliminated. The number of other items of polling materials and stationery will also be drastically reduced.

3. (a) A great reduction in number of polling personnel will be possible.

(b) Number of vehicles used for transportation will also be greatly reduced.

4. The voting will become far easier, quicker and smoother.